

**People's Union (Continued.)**  
Attorney General, DANIEL S. HARRISON  
Secretary of State, ROBERT B. HARRISON  
Comptroller, LUCIUS ROBINSON  
Treasurer, WILLIAM L. LEVITT  
State Engineer, WILLIAM A. HARRISON  
Police Commissioner, ABRAHAM R. TAPPAN  
Fire Commissioner, FRANKLIN A. ALLEN  
Board of Health, FREDERICK A. TALLMADGE  
Board of Prisoners, WILLIAM S. WELCH

**Mexico and her Territories.**  
The sudden determination of Spain to act alone in the Mexican question not only indicates that Spanish diplomacy has lost none of its ancient pride and impracticability, but also that there was never any real concert of action amongst the members of the Tripartite Alliance. LOUIS NAPOLEON does not fail in anything he undertakes; and is far too shrewd to contribute to a kind of war towards Mexico still further the power of England on this continent or anywhere else. Hence the negotiations stuck fast in Paris, blocked up by real or pretended difficulties, until with a sense of offended dignity, Spain resolved to reassert her claims to her ancient colony—whether in accordance with the secret purpose of the astute French Emperor remains to be seen.

That this course will seriously derange the purposes of England, cannot be doubted. All the preliminary steps had been taken to swallow Mexico in a manner void of offense towards man if not towards God. The plot was laid with a due regard to the unities in such cases. The newspapers teemed with tales of Mexican misrule and anarchy, in which British subjects and interests were to appear the chief sufferers. And at last, that cure of all evils, war, was to be a—Times correspondent—was sent to Mexico, with "special" instructions. In due time—the records of unpunished crimes, the depredations of merchants and capitalists, the depredations of the army and the depredations of the army, with hands placed deprecatingly on breeches pockets that had been depredated by the vile arts of Mexican revolutionists and reactionists.

That the real object of England was territorial aggrandizement, with a view of reaching across the continent and controlling the trade of the Pacific ocean, is beyond a doubt. Her pecuniary interests, which served as a pretext for the expedition, were slight, and less than one day's expenditure for our present war in support of the Union. The total amount of unpaid dividends on Mexican bonds held by British subjects was less than the cost of the means employed to collect it, and might easily be covered by a couple of American capitalists. But Spanish obstinacy has upset the well laid scheme, and substituted open brute force for the low subtle cunning of her ally.

It cannot be supposed that our government has remained inactive during these complications, or failed to assert for the United States at least an equal—if not a controlling—voice in questions that involved the destiny of so large a portion of this continent. What the position of the administration has been we have no means of judging; but it may be that the Secretary of State, recognizing the merely commercial pretexts of England, has offered to guarantee that the cash shall henceforth be duly paid by Mexico, and demanded that the debtor should be released from further importunity. This position of our government would explain the sudden movement of Spain, and show that there is still, as is insisted on by the English papers, a perfect understanding amongst the members of the Tripartite Alliance; and it will further explain the recent circular of Mr. Seward to the governors of the loyal states requesting that the exposed positions on the sea-board and the lakes should immediately be fortified. If the foreign powers strike it will be through Mexico, though where the blow may fall or whether it may fall at all depends on the celerity of our movements and the strength of our armaments.

**Exchange of Prisoners.**  
Much of the public criticism of military operations is necessarily based upon profound ignorance. But it seems to us that the freely expressed censures of the Government for not exchanging prisoners with the rebels, must be based rather upon stupidity, the inoperative necessity for non-intercourse, having been made public by the rebel Generals themselves, immediately after the battle of Bull Run. Contrary to the theory whatever recognition might be necessarily implied in the mere exchange of prisoners, as the Government to which they owe allegiance seems disposed for humanity's sake to do—there yet remains a difficulty which the rightful authorities can neither remove nor disregard. The rebel chiefs insist upon receiving no communication whatever, which does not explicitly recognize their offices and functions as national and legitimate. This is the fatal difficulty. To address to them an overture on the subject which they would entertain, would be to recognize their independence. And they are shrewdly careful not to open the way of relief by making overtures themselves, in the evident hope that the sufferings of prisoners in their hands, and the clamors of their friends through the press and otherwise, will ultimately force the Administration into a false step. But they will be disappointed. Whatever the weakness of the Administration, it is, diplomatically, the strongest we have had for many years, perhaps ever. The informal exchange, or voluntary recognition of favor to prisoners, initiated on the part of the Government by the overtured this morning, is the most that can properly or will probably be done. It remains for the confederates to make as much as little of it as they please.

**The War of the Politicians.**  
Before leaving St. Louis, on Monday, the Secretary of War, by letter, ordered General Fremont to discontinue, as unnecessary, his field works around the city, and that he is erecting at Jefferson City.

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## \$1 FOR 16 MONTHS

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Our loss in killed and wounded is not over seven, while that of the enemy is at least one hundred and fifty. Col. Ashby was at the head of the enemy in the morning, and captured the 32-pounder, a Columbiad.

**THE ATTACK.**  
Early yesterday morning, the rebels showed themselves on Bolivar Heights, at Harper's Ferry, and commenced firing upon the Union forces under Major J. P. Gould, stationed on the north side of the Potomac.

## RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Advertisements for one year, in advance, at the rate of \$100 per annum. For six months, at \$60. For three months, at \$35. For one month, at \$15. For one week, at \$5. For one day, at \$1. For one hour, at \$1. For one minute, at \$1. For one second, at \$1. For one third of a second, at \$1. For one fourth of a second, at \$1. For one fifth of a second, at \$1. For one sixth of a second, at \$1. For one seventh of a second, at \$1. For one eighth of a second, at \$1. For one ninth of a second